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31 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Economic Intelligence Committee
SUBJECT: Annual Report
REFERENCE: EIC-D-168 with two Attachments

The report of the EIC Subcommittee on Minerals and Metals for FY 1956 is submitted below in abbreviated form in view of the inactivity of the Subcommittee in most of the fields cited by the referenced documents.

A. Activities of the Subcommittee during the Fiscal Year

1. The Subcommittee met once during FY 56, on 8 May 1956. An additional meeting has been held in FY 57, on 23 July 1956. Both meetings were held to consider questions related to a possible exchange of delegations between the US and the USSR and included three (ferrous metallurgy, nonferrous metallurgy and mining) of the six exchanges proposed by the Russians in Foreign Office Note No. 51/OSA.

2. No proposals for external research were submitted to the Subcommittee for review during the year, nor were any projects undertaken at the request of or proposed to the EIC.

3. Informal contact among members was maintained during the year in connection with specific and current problems. These consultations were conducted principally on a bilateral basis and presented no need for a meeting of the full subcommittee.

B. Evaluation of the Role of the Subcommittee

1. Although the only formal meeting of the Subcommittee during the year was convened to consider a special problem, the Subcommittee membership provided a useful channel of communication among the organizations represented. As was demonstrated by the meeting held, the Subcommittee also served as a convenient means of determining on short notice inter-agency opinions on matters related to intelligence in the field of minerals and metals.

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2. The inactivity of the Subcommittee in respect to most of its prescribed functions arises from the fact that CIA/RR is the only member accepting responsibility for the production of official estimates on a comprehensive continuing basis in the Subcommittee's field. Some of the members nevertheless have occasion to use such estimates and it is desired to provide them with the opportunity for a review of the supporting methodology and data. Progress in this direction has been delayed, however, by the pressure of other business, an internal reappraisal of some CIA/RR estimates, and a reorganization in progress in one of the member agencies.

C. Future Program of the Subcommittee

It is proposed that the Subcommittee shall continue to serve as a mechanism for the determination of inter-agency opinion on appropriate matters and to be available for consultation at the request of any member. In addition, it is intended to attempt to increase the Subcommittee's efforts for a more general dissemination and recognition of basic statistics in its field.

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Chairman
EIC Subcommittee On
Minerals and Metals